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## No Mas Bebés



*No Mas Bebés* is a heartbreaking film about what happened to Latina women who gave birth at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center (LAC+USC) during the late 1960s and early 1970s, and afterward, found themselves sterile. It screened on January 14<sup>th</sup> at the California Endowment and will be shown on PBS (KCET) on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 pm. It is an important piece of work.

As the stories unfold, we are drawn into the lives and the families of women who are faces of a wide-range of Latina experience in Los Angeles. This is more than a story of injustice or non-ethical practices. It is a story about what informed-consent truly means in society. If a person is not told the truth and consequences of a consent form, how can that form be valid?

In the film, the women were not explained what would happen when they consented. The result is tragic.

The legal, moral and ethical questions brought up in *No Mas Bebés* are relevant points of conversation desperately needed to ensure that patients' rights are protected. After the screening, the filmmakers spoke about how challenging it was for these women to find their voices and to stand up in a legal action against a system that denied any



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wrongdoing or responsibility. These women hid their reproductive secrets for years and paid a high emotional cost for what happened to them.

The question of whether or not to have children is personal, a decision that should be taken seriously and respected. This film gave me an enlightened perspective on the concept of family and how valuable informed consent can be for those seeking medical care. I give *No Mas Bebés* five golden tickets.

